

REMARKS

Objection to the Specification

The 12/16/2004 office action objected to the specification because "the first page of the specification should not contain the application information." This objection is not understood. The application included a cover page, as many applications do, identifying the inventors and the assignee and containing a certificate of express mailing. To the knowledge of the undersigned, such cover pages, like transmittal letters, are not considered to be part of the specification. If the cover page is what the examiner was referring to as "the first page of the specification," the undersigned is unaware of any prohibition of cover pages and requests that the examiner cite some authority for the objection and correction requirement. It appears to the undersigned that the page of the application labelled page 1, which contains the title and cross-reference to related applications, is entirely proper.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9-13 and 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0199194 to Ali. Ali is directed to a network-based system for making program recommendations to a user based on the user's profile. The program recommendations may also be based on aggregate data derived from profile data supplied over the network by other users. See, e.g., Ali paragraphs 0013, 0027. However, the program recommendation is provided only to the user, not to all the users who may have contributed data that was aggregated.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to providing program recommendations for programming that may be presented to a set of particular people; the recommendations are for programs that are likely to appeal to all of the people in the set. The program recommendations are based on the user profiles of the people in the set. See, e.g., the application at page 4 lines 3-15.

Independent claims 9 and 19 have been amended to specify the above-described difference. It is therefore believed that claims 9 and 19 and their dependents are allowable. Their dependents have been amended to correspond with the amended language of the independent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and further examination is requested, and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S R Petersen', is written over a horizontal line.

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